

Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Biography

On August 6, 2011, U.S. Navy Master Chief Special Warfare Operator, Lou Langlais was one of 30 Americans killed in action when their helicopter was shot down in Wardak Province, Eastern Afghanistan in one of the deadliest days for U.S. troops in the decade-long war. The deployment was to be Langlais' last tour in Afghanistan before returning home to become a trainer in the elite Navy SEAL program. He is survived by his loving wife Anya; their two sons, Gabe and Jack; his sister, Lucie Langlais; two brothers, Jean and Simon Langlais; and the entire Naval Special Warfare Family.

Louis James 'Lou' Langlais was born in Quebec, Canada and grew up in Santa Barbara, California. A graduate of Santa Barbara High school, Langlais was an avid rock and mountain climber, who spent much of his free time rock climbing some of California's most renowned and challenging locations, including Yosemite National Park and Joshua Tree National Monument.

Langlais joined the Navy in 1986 and after spending three years on a warship, was accepted into, and graduated from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training Class 162, in February 1989. He eventually followed his passion for skydiving and joined the Navy Parachute Team, "The Leap Frogs." In 2000, Lou joined the highly selective Naval Special Warfare Development Group where he eventually rose to become a troop leader in the Navy SEALs' elite Team Six.

During his 25 years of military service, which included time in Iraq during the first Gulf War in addition to his multiple tours in Afghanistan, Master Chief Langlais' personal and unit decorations included five Bronze Stars with Valor, the Purple Heart, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, and three Presidential Unit Citations, as well as several other campaign and unit decorations.

The naming of the Santa Barbara Post Office after Master Chief Lou Langlais is a fitting tribute to a man who served his nation honorably and continues to be a hero among SEALs. This post office would honor the work of a dedicated patriot who will be remembered for his bravery, hard work, and commitment to friends, family, and country.